

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A cane holder comprising:
  - (a) a flexible support strap having first and second terminal ends for positioning about the body of a cane user,
  - (b) a cane-engaging member secured to the support strap, said cane-engaging member having at least two interconnected openings of disparate size for adjustable support of a cane in a substantially vertical position on the person of a user.
2. A cane holder in accordance with claim 1 in which the cane-engaging member is formed from a resilient material that can be distorted to allow placement therein of a cane having a shaft dimension larger than the interconnection between the at least two interconnected openings.
3. A cane holder in accordance with claim 2 wherein the interconnection between the two interconnected cane openings is characterized by flexible protrusions between which a cane shaft may be laterally passed.
4. A cane holder in accordance with claim 2 in which there are more than two interconnected disparate-sized openings.
5. A cane holder in accordance with claim 2 wherein the largest opening is of

elongated shape with at least one relatively thin flexible side.

6. A cane holder especially for support from the person of the user comprising:

- (a) a three dimensional plastic member having greater lateral dimensions than thickness dimensions,
- (b) at least two orifices arranged side-by-side and in communication with each other through an intervening passageway,
- (c) the plastic member being composed at least at the interconnecting portions of a flexible polymer that can be deformed sufficiently to allow passage of a cane from one orifice to the other when the cane is larger than the interconnecting passage, and
- (d) means to retain the plastic member on or about the person of a cane user.

7. A cane holder in accordance with claim 6 wherein there are more than two interconnecting orifices in the three dimensional plastic member.

8. A cane holder in accordance with claim 6 wherein the means to retain the plastic members on or about the person of the cane user is a lanyard.

9. A cane holder in accordance with claim 8 wherein the lanyard is provided with a breakaway feature for reasons of safety.

10. A cane holder in accordance with claim 9 wherein the breakaway feature is comprised of a connector disengagable upon the application of a predetermined tension.

11. A cane holder in accordance with claim 6 wherein the larger orifice has significantly greater dimensions in one direction than transverse thereto.

12. A cane holder in accordance with claim 11 wherein the dimensions of plastic along at least one side of the larger orifice are dimensioned to allow greater flexibility in the dimensions of such orifice.

13. A cane holder in accordance with claim 6 additionally including a gate in the exterior wall of at least one orifice to allow lateral admission of a cane to such orifice.

14. A cane holder in accordance with claim 13 wherein the gate is a sliding gate structure.

15. A method of storing a cane temporarily while the user is otherwise occupied comprising:

- (a) placing the cane in a holder having at least two disparate sized interconnecting orifices in the general range of sizes of the cane shaft

diameter,

- (b) said cane being entered into the larger of the disparate sized orifices with an endwise orientation,
- (c) moving the cane laterally through the interconnection between the orifices into the smaller of the orifices where the cane is retained by side contact with the cane holder structure,
- (d) allowing the cane to remain in such smaller sized orifice until required and then removing for further use.

**16.** A method of storing a cane in accordance with claim 15 wherein the cane is forced from the larger looser fitting orifice into the smaller tightly fitting orifice through a relatively small-sized interconnecting passage by force temporarily deforming the composition of the holder.

**17.** A method of storing a cane in accordance with claim 16 wherein the cane is retained in the smaller of the orifices by a loose fit about the cane and wherein the head of the shaft of the cane will not pass through the orifice.

**18.** A method of storing a cane in accordance with claim 16 wherein the cane is retained by close contact of the orifice sides with the shaft of the cane as a reaction against forcing the cane into the orifice.